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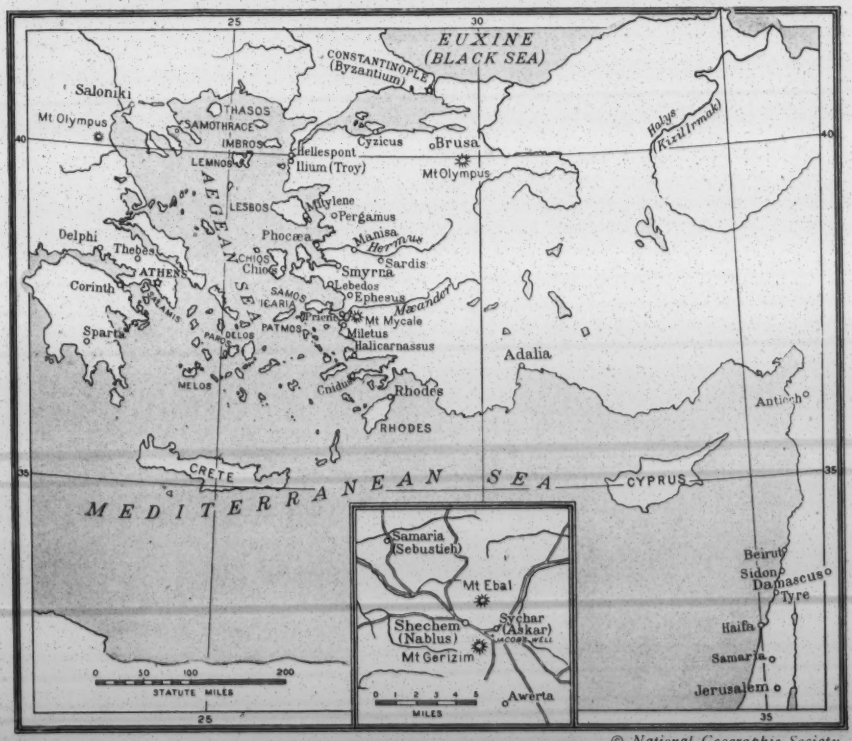

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A MAP OF ASIA MINOR AND THE HOLY LAND

Herein are shown the home cities of the Seven Wise Men of ancient Greece, and also the region of Palestine and Trans-Jordan (see Bulletin No. 1). In the small inset map is shown the location of Jacob's Well (see illustration on back of this page). See, also, in your library, the National Geographic Magazine for January, 1920, containing an article entitled "Asia Minor in the time of the Seven Wise Men."

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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Trans-Jordan: The Land of the First Philadelphia

ALL Christendom could visualize the location of the earthquake last summer that shook Bethlehem, Jerusalem and Jericho, in Palestine; but Trans-Jordan, across the Jordan River, as the name suggests, is a new and less familiar Arab state.

Trans-Jordan did not exist until the League of Nations, about seven years ago, decided to establish a state east of the Jordan. For some time after its creation few persons more than 500 miles from its borders knew where and what the kingdom was. A correspondent of the National Geographic Society who visited the new state in 1923 described its creation as "an act of the Versailles pastry-makers, who, like so many cooks, had some dough left over after the molds were filled, and this was one of the odd cookies."

Region Borders the Arabian Desert

A glance at the map indicates that Trans-Jordan is a desert. Shaped like an axe head, with the blade pointing southward toward the Red Sea, the state lies on the northern fringe of the Arabian Desert and includes the eastern shores of the Dead Sea. But much of the region, particularly that lying near the Jordan, is steppe land, supporting some flocks and occasional crops.

Like desert people, however, many of the half million inhabitants are nomads who wander about the area, pitching their tents where and as they please. This accounts for the slow development of the region. Even the ruler, His Highness the Emir Abdullah Ibu Hussein, is virtually a desert prince and nomad chieftain. Until recently he held his "court," not in a palace, but in a group of tents.

Amman, Trans-Jordan's capital, is about a five-hour automobile ride across the hot and dusty plains of Jericho and through the sizzling valley of the Jordan River, which is 1,200 feet below the level of the sea. Amman, under various names, has been the capital of this area for ages. It was called Rabbath Amman, chief city of the Ammonites, almost from the days of Lot, from whom the Ammonites are said to have sprung. In the third century Ptolemy Philadelphus became the new lord and called the capital Philadelphia, the city of brotherly love.

Once Seat of Greek and Roman Culture

No one visiting Trans-Jordan to-day would suspect, at first glance, that this land was once a center of Greek and Roman prosperity. Greek culture flourished in the East after Alexander's eastern conquests and during the reign of Ptolemy Philadelphus. When Ptolemy took the reins of government, one of his first acts was to build a magnificent acropolis at Amman.

The main street of Amman winds around a high hill upon which the Greek citadel once stood. Hard by are the ruins of a Roman theater and the broken stone benches of a Roman amphitheater which probably seated 7,000 spectators.

Where Chess and Checkers Came From

Abdullah has cleared away the debris from the ruins. Perhaps some visitors could make suggestions for a better use of the ruins. Now the columns and stones are frequently lined with the village loungers, and herds of goats browse among the ancient foundations. Arabian coffee shops and bazaars lean against

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NEAR SYCHAR IS JACOB'S WELL, ITS DEPTH INDICATED BY THE LENGTH OF THE ROPE

To locate this historic well see map on cover page. It is in the vicinity of Samaria and Shechem, which were once great cities of the ancient civilized world. That world was small, compared to the world every school child now knows. Some of the customs and rites of Biblical times still survive. For an account of "How the Vanishing Samaritans Celebrate the Passover on Sacred Mount Gerizim," see in your library, the National Geographic Magazine for January, 1920.

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Some Strange Kinds of Fishes

ONE lungfish is worth a number of garfish if the recent trading by the New York and London aquariums afford a market indicator for odd fishes.

Lepidosiren paradoxa, the lungfish, who can take his drink of water or leave it alone, by the terms of the trade has moved to a New York aquarium. When there is water in the Amazon swamps from which it came, the lungfish swims as other fish. When drought comes it burrows into a mud bank and waits patiently for the next freshet.

Fishes That Change Their Colors

Fishes, like animals, show many remarkable adaptations to their environments.

Groupers, rock fishes, and hinds have the power of undergoing complete color changes almost instantaneously. The color tone becomes lighter or darker and the markings become bold or fade and disappear. Such color changes can be seen to advantage in individuals kept in an aquarium.

The Swell-fishes have the power of suddenly inflating the body with water or air until they assume an approximately globular form several times the normal diameter, which must be disconcerting to any enemy about to seize one. The Porcupine-fish, in addition to doing this, has the body everywhere covered with long, sharp spines which project in every direction like the quills of a hedgehog. Many persons who are familiar with the inflated skins of Swell-fishes and Porcupine fishes, used by the Japanese as picturesque lanterns, will be surprised to learn that both are common in southern waters.

Most marine animals which swim especially swiftly and continuously have a forked tail-fin. This shape of tail avoids the space immediately behind the axis of the body where the stream-lines following the sides (of a moving fish) converge. A rounded or pointed tail which would occupy such area would be a drag.

And Then the Tails

Whales and Porpoises, though they move the tail up and down instead of from side to side, have a forked tail-fin, only it lies in a horizontal instead of a vertical plane. The wide-ranging members of the mackerel family and other more or less related marine fishes have a forked tail-fin set on a firm, narrow base; and the freest swimming sharks (Mackerel sharks and the Man-eater) have acquired a tail of the same shape, though the ordinary shark tail is weak and unsymmetrical.

The Red Snapper comes from deeper water than other common snappers. There is a tendency for fishes which swim deep down under the blue or green sea, and yet within range of surface light penetration, to be red in color. A great many are not, to be sure, but a larger proportion are red here than elsewhere, frequently a clear bright striking red all over.

The Shark Is a Conservative

It seems almost a pity that the light in which they live is so green that the color, red, must appear an intangible neutral gray! Perhaps it gives them a useful inconspicuousness down there, or perhaps it absorbs a maximum amount of the dim, strongly blue-green sunlight, which is in some way beneficial.

some of the old walls, and here and there, in the shade of a column, groups of squatting men, silent and almost motionless, play checkers or chess. The Arabs assert they invented chess.

Everywhere in Trans-Jordan the mounted Arab is seen wearing his flowing native garb. His hat is perhaps the oldest form of headgear. It is a large, square piece of cloth called the kaffeyeh, which is doubled cornerwise, laid on the head, and held in place by a coil of goats' hair, or wool. One who is familiar with the coil can tell readily from what region the wearer comes.

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A VIEW NEAR AMSTERDAM SHOWING SECTIONS OF ARTIFICIALLY DRAINED LAND AND WINDMILLS (see Bulletin No. 3).

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Amsterdam: the New York of Holland

AUDACIOUS though it may seem to compare old Amsterdam to New Amsterdam, now New York, when it is considered that the latter was once a namesake of the Dutch city, nearly every experience in the hustling, bustling Amsterdam of to-day is reminiscent to Americans of the metropolis of the New World.

New York and Amsterdam, Holland, have much in common. Each is the largest and most populous city in its respective country. Neither is the political capital of the country, but each is the undisputed commercial dictator and the key-point of military defense. Each is a seaport, although here the analogy does not follow as closely. Rotterdam's commerce exceeds that of Amsterdam. Amsterdam, however, has the headquarters of all the large shipping companies, just as has New York. Like New York, Amsterdam is also an important industrial center, with shipbuilding plants, refineries, machine shops, many small factories, diamond polishing mills, etc.

Geography prevents carrying the parallel much further. While New York towers above sea level on a foundation of solid rock, Amsterdam is a city perched on wooden piles. No permanent structures can be erected on the upper stratum of loam and loose sand, hence the necessity for driving supports 15 to 60 feet below the level of the ground, and hence, probably, the jest of Erasmus of Rotterdam, who said the natives of Amsterdam live on the tops of trees like rooks.

The Threat of Water

Disastrous effects of heavy rains in near-by regions frequently emphasize the constant battle that the city and the country must wage against the eternal enemy —water. Both to the sea and the sky Holland must ever present a strong arm. Amsterdam itself is shut off from tidal fluctuations by dikes and locks, but the water in its many canals is constantly changed by inflows from rivers and a canal connecting it direct with the North Sea. The water in its huge harbor and street canals is kept at what is known as "the Amsterdam level," which may be considered a mean of high and low tide.

The city of Amsterdam lies in the southwest corner of the great inland body of water known as the Zuyder Zee, at the influx of the Amstel and Y Rivers. Like Venice, it is built on a number of islands, but with much more regularity than the Queen of the Adriatic. Roughly, the city plan looks like a profile of a half-wheel, with numerous water spokes and inner rims in regular succession. These rims or successive encircling canals indicate zones of expansion in the past, and, flanked with avenues of elms and tall, narrow brick houses with the gables turned toward the street, give a handsome and picturesque effect to the residential sections.

Not a Windmill in Sight

Americans who start their tour of Holland in Amsterdam are likely to be disillusioned. Not a windmill can be seen in the downtown section, and the hurrying throngs who jostle one on the streets are dressed very much like other Europeans. Steam engines are replacing the characteristic waving arms of the Dutch windmill throughout the kingdom. Only in the remote rural sections, and at tourist attractions such as the Isle of Marken, can one find the bloomers, lace caps

While evolution has been molding other more modern fishes into a great variety of forms to fit every niche in the infinitely varied but unchanging environment of tropical seas, the shark has always been much as we find him to-day.

It is not surprising, therefore, that there is a fish which owes its very remarkable structure and habits to the presence of sharks. This is the slender Shark Sucker which has the anterior portion of its body horizontally flattened, and a remarkable oval structure, with movable slats like those of a blind, on the top of its head. With this apparatus it attaches itself firmly at will to the shark's broad side and thus, as a "dead-head" passenger, is transported through long stretches of ocean without any effort on its own part.

The Shark Sucker is boldly and very beautifully striped with black and white, but can change its color almost instantly to a dull, uniform gray matching the side of the shark to which it is clinging. It sometimes attaches itself also to other large fishes, such as the Tarpon, or turtles.*

Bulletin No. 2, October 31, 1927.

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*Nature classes, desiring to study fish further, or geography classes having assignments on the value of fish as a food crop, should consult, in their libraries, "The Book of Fishes," by John Oliver La Gorce and other authorities. This volume, issued by the National Geographic Society, is illustrated with color portraits of 92 fishes in action, and it has 134 engravings. The chapters include "Fishes and Fisheries of Our North Atlantic Seaboard" by John Oliver La Gorce; "Our Heritage of the Fresh Waters" by Charles Haskins Townsend, Director of the New York Aquarium; "Certain Citizens of the Warm Sea" by L. L. Mowbray; "Curious Inhabitants of the Gulf Stream" by Dr. John T. Nichols, Curator of Recent Fishes; "Devil Fishing in the Gulf Stream" by John Oliver La Gorce; "Salmon: America's Most Valuable Fish" and "Oysters: A Leading Fishery Product" by Hugh M. Smith, former United States Commissioner of Fisheries; and "Life on the Grand Banks" by Frederick W. Wallace.

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Bayreuth, the City that Music Made

SELDOM does a genius arise who can put an entire city in bondage to his achievement. Such was the case, however, with Wagner and Bayreuth, where the annual Wagner music festival has just completed its fourth season since the interruption by the World War.

To Bayreuth Wagner intrusted the perpetuation of his operas. For almost two months each summer the Festspielhaus, the theater designed by Wagner himself, resounds with his music, and his only.

Each summer Bayreuth ceases to be a "little German town." Wagner wrote for the ear of the world, not Germany alone, so Bayreuth becomes a sounding board for the echoes of many tongues.

City's Gift to Wagner

Two golden months are over at last, and then Bayreuth does little but wait until the festival two months of the next summer. Of course there is a trickle of tourists to show the great slab of marble, unmarked by inscription or design, that covers the master composer's grave. And from the grave they go to the Villa Wahnfried, Wagner's refuge of peace, now occupied by his family.

"Wagner City" is just off the route to anywhere. Its very isolation endeared it to Wagner. Many cities offered to do homage to the master's operas as long as there were listeners to hear, but Wagner chose Bayreuth. It lies in mountainous southwest Germany. Scale 40 miles west of the westernmost wedge of Czechoslovakia on the map and you will find it. Nuremberg is another 40 miles south of Bayreuth. An airplane journey from Nuremberg to Leipzig would take a sky-sightseer over Bayreuth, but the forested mountains that close around it compel the main line railroad to seek a valley farther east.

Audiences Are Worthy of the Music

If Wagner, remembering how Paris hoodlums howled down Tannhauser, intended that Bayreuth should be a temple giving admittance only to music lovers, he succeeded. Devoted appreciation must fire travelers to search out this little hilltown. The journey, once started, becomes a pilgrimage. And pilgrims who will travel hundreds and sometimes thousands of miles to hear an opera make eager listeners. So here are found audiences worthy of great work superbly done.

Once in Bayreuth, the interest is not in the heart of town, but in "the lovely little hill" toward which a broad, tree-bordered boulevard points. The lovely little hill is a perfect setting for the Wagner theater. No other theater in the world is like this one. Wagner's aim was to knit drama, stage setting and music in closest unity. Only in this specially designed auditorium, he believed, could his operas fulfill the ideal of his conception. Viewed from without, the theater is plain but graceful. Not until one enters do the unusual details of construction become apparent. Seats rise in tiers like those of a Greek theater, leaving no space for balcony or gallery. The musicians are out of sight.

Near the theater is a grassy park which nightly becomes "The Playground of the Gods." Wagner's operas are peopled with pagan deities, giants, witches, heroes, heroines, dwarfs and monsters. Out of the stage doors they pour and into the park during the long intermissions as if from a magic box.

and wooden shoes of the old geography book pictures. Amsterdam's shops resemble America's finest, both in quality and in price, while the Bank of the Netherlands is one of the leading financial establishments of Europe.

Amsterdam might be said to be the first setting of nearly every diamond. Its diamond polishing and cutting mills have been famous since the sixteenth century, when the art was introduced by Portuguese Jews after the sack of Antwerp. At the present time there are nearly a hundred mills, employing several thousand persons. Most of the raw diamonds come from South Africa, although Brazil and the Far East are other sources of supply.

The Dutch love mottoes, signs and inscriptions. On some of the houses of Amsterdam can still be found printed legends, such as "This is my pleasure and my life," "The place for song," etc. Public buildings are special targets throughout the country for the inscription painter. The Scriptures are so freely drawn upon, one writer claims, that were the Bible otherwise lost to man it could be replaced almost intact from the inscriptions on Dutch town-gates and municipal halls. A sign which draws the most attention from American tourists, however, and a rush for a baggage label, is that which swings outside the door of a modest little hostelry near the station—"The Dam Hotel." "Dam" in Dutch, however, means "city."

Holland's "Dead Cities"

Near Amsterdam are the "dead cities" of Holland. The term is misleading, for most of the cities still exist. Through the silting up of the Zuyder Zee in the last two centuries many former prosperous seaports have lost their shipping. Houses have fallen into disrepair, harbors have been abandoned, trade has withered and disappeared. They are not exactly dead; they have just ceased to live.

Monnikendam, Hoorn, Edam, Stavoren, Kampen and others are examples of once powerful and prosperous cities, with fleets of vessels which brought to their wharves the silks and spices of China and the Indies, which to-day are nothing more than quiet little rural centers. Prosaic cheeses have supplanted more exotic cargoes from the Orient. Peaceful, pipe-smoking burghers today swing their feet from molding wharves, whose boards once resounded to the heavy tread of more adventurous ancestors—bold seafarers whose fleet vessels worried even the mighty armadas of Spain.

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Newfoundland: Senior Colony of Great Britain

NEWFOUNDLAND frequently was in the newspapers this summer because of the search for the heroic French aviators who tried to fly from Paris to New York. Historically Newfoundland is interesting because it is the oldest colony of Great Britain.

Five years after Columbus touched the West Indies, John Cabot discovered Newfoundland, but Britain's king did not formally annex the new domain for nearly a century. In the meantime the Portuguese landed on the island in the neighborhood of Conception Bay. It is along the shores of this body of water that the villagers thought they heard the "White Bird" airplane.

Island Government Entirely Separate from Canada

After several unsuccessful attempts to settle Newfoundland, it became a full-fledged British colony, with a governor, in 1728. Then Canada was New France, south Africa belonged to the Dutch, and the natives of Australia had not seen white settlers, although various European explorers had visited there.

Newfoundland usually is colored by the map-makers like Canada, but the island is as separate from Canada, so far as government is concerned, as it is from India. Attempts have frequently been made in the past to bring about a union of the two British dominions, but Newfoundland has insisted on standing alone. Perhaps this is partly due to the pride that Newfoundlanders have always had in the seniority of their colony.

Closest Point of North America to Europe

Newfoundland stands as a sentinel at Canada's front door to Europe, its 42,000 square miles leaving only a narrow outlet to the sea from the St. Lawrence River. It is the closest part of North America to the British Isles, about 1,640 miles to Ireland, less than half the distance the French aviators planned to fly. It is natural that the first trans-Atlantic cable should have been laid to the shores of Newfoundland in 1858, and that more than half of the twenty cables now crossing the North Atlantic first touch America either on Newfoundland or its neighboring islets. In 1919, the two British aviators who first flew across the Atlantic took off from Newfoundland.

From the sea the island resembles Norway, with its cliffs rising 200 to 300 feet from the water's edge, broken here and there by deep fiords and bays that form splendid harbors. They also are responsible for Newfoundland's saw-tooth shore line which about doubles its coast.

The bleak, barren cliffs belie conditions in many parts of the rolling, heavily forested interior. In the vicinity of some of the lakes and rivers that cover more than one-third of Newfoundland are fertile valleys in which agriculture and stock-raising flourish.

Cod Trains British Landlubbers

Avalon peninsula, joined to the southeastern extremity of the island by a narrow strip of land about 3 miles wide in some places, is the most populous part of Newfoundland. St. Johns, the capital, is located near the northern end of one of the four "tentacles" that form the peninsula's erratic coast line.

Fish made Newfoundland what it was for a few hundred years, but mining,

AIRPLANE VIEW OF AMSTERDAM: THE NEW YORK OF HOLLAND

In the center of the picture, facing the open space (Leidsche Plein), is the municipal playhouse (Stads Schouwburg), erected in 1890-94. To the left, on a canal, is one of the city's finest hotels, much patronized by Americans. The large square building, also facing the Leidsche Plein, is one of Amsterdam's department stores (see Bulletin No. 3).

stock-raising, farming and the manufacture of newsprint paper from wood pulp have helped to make it what it is to-day—a thriving colony of about 250,000 inhabitants, whose people are famous for their industry, loyalty, and ability as seafarers. Most of them are English, Scotch, and Irish. A few native Indians remain, many of whom are employed as guides.

Codfish stirred the British to utilize the resources of her new domain and helped lay the foundation of the British Empire upon which the sun never sets. Before Cabot's discovery, the British were "landlubbers" and knew little of seafaring. But the cod started a stampede to the island in 1498, when a fleet took off from Devon. Thousands of men who shipped between Newfoundland and England annually became trained seafarers and Great Britain soon became a seafaring nation. Then the British Navy grew and the Empire began its world-wide expansion.

Newfoundland's government is somewhat like that of Canada. The island is a "responsible colony" (self-governing) with a governor-general appointed by the British King, and it has a Parliament of two houses.

Nine hundred miles of railroads now traverse Newfoundland, connecting with various shipping lines at the important ports.

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OPERATORS PACKING SARDINES: PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA

Not only in Newfoundland (see Bulletin No. 5) but in Nova Scotia, and all along eastern Canada fish are a major crop. They range in size from the tiny sardine to the huge tuna. Can you name the principal food fish found off the Atlantic Coast of the United States?